

October 10, 2020

Dr. Hobaugh. Board of Education, faculty and staff,

My name is Donna Exley and I am a retired teacher from Voorhees High School. Never in my 40 years of teaching could I have imagined what school looks like as we know it today!!!!

I feel compelled to write this letter to acknowledge and praise the amazing job that the administration, teachers and staff are doing during this Covid situation. I am involved in the M-T-W homeschool portion of my 1st and 3rd grade grandchildren. From the very first moment we stepped on the blacktop to enter the school, the process was smooth, orderly and very reassuring to the students. I was apparent that their safety was a priority and all the protocols were put in place were being followed. . During the home process I am witness each day to the high professional standards, the kindness, love of teaching, the passion, the ability to adapt to anything that arises and the IMMENSE patience displayed moment to moment. What I see is only a small glimpse of what a teacher must deal with on a daily basis.

Anyone who has not been in the classroom might not understand or even be aware of what has to take place in order to meet the requirement asked of our teachers. I've heard people say "It is no different than regular teaching." That statement couldn't be more inaccurate. Just handling the e-mails alone would be a daunting task!!! Now add to this learning new programs and technology in a very short time period, preparing plans for 3 different groups M-T/W/ Th-F and total home schooled students, then reviewing/grading that work at the end of day. Their day doesn't end with that. It often extends late into the night and into their weekends. Then it starts all over again!!! Oh, and don't forget that they all have families and obligations outside of the classroom. This has to be so overwhelming and heartbreaking. We need to make sure our teachers are ok through all of this. I try to tell the teachers at least once a week how appreciated and amazing I think they are. I will continue to do so as long as this goes on.

I don't have the words to truly express my gratitude but please know that you are thought of often, greatly appreciated and that you are all true superheroes!!!! Thank you.

Respectfully,

Donna Exley

